

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 OCTOBER 1968

1. Soviet Union

The Russian cosmonaut and his Soyuz 3 spacecraft were brought down-- apparently successfully--inside the Soviet Union

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2. Rumania -
Warsaw Pact

Rumanian authorities have evidently accepted in principle a Soviet proposal to hold joint maneuvers in Rumania sometime next year. Bucharest is obviously worried about this kind of involvement and says it will demand a formal government-to-government accord spelling out the number of Soviet troops and when they will enter and leave. This is hardly adequate insurance.

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The Rumanians and the Soviets continue to cooperate on some military matters.

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3. Czechoslovakia

There were anti-Soviet demonstrations in Bratislava last night after the Czech leaders arrived to witness the signing of the federalization bill today. Soviet troops did not intervene, however, and so far the occupation command seems content to let the local authorities handle the situation. More demonstrations in Bratislava are expected today.

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4. Israel

Contacts of the embassy in Tel Aviv say that previous talk of a cabinet crisis over peace terms has evaporated, and that they see no spectacular developments when the cabinet meets to discuss the problem tomorrow.

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5. Portugal

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6. Soviet Union -
Antarctica

The Soviets are continuing their impressive research activities in Antarctica. The diversity of this effort, which covers many branches of science but concentrates on geophysics, rivals that of any other country.

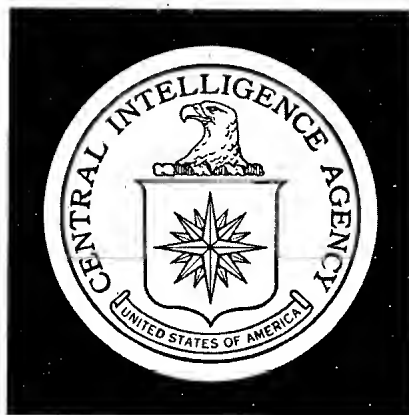
The fourteenth annual Soviet Antarctic expedition is now getting under way with 300 members--100 more than last year.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Propaganda: Both Liberation Radio and Hanoi continue to denounce press rumors that there is some bargaining going on between Washington and Hanoi about conditions for a bombing halt. Communist commentaries are still hammering home the theme that has dominated their propaganda for more than a week--the relative strength and importance of the Front compared with Saigon. The Liberation Front commentary on the 28th was harsher in tone and in its denunciation of President Johnson's recent comments, but

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even Nhan Dan said on 29 October that "no beautiful words can turn the moribund puppets into a force to reckon with." Both commentaries insisted that the US stop the bombing without conditions.

In Paris the newly arrived Front representative, in a brief appearance on French television and radio on 29 October, laughed at the suggestion that a representative of the Front should sit as part of the Hanoi delegation at the peace talks. The Front exercises real power in South Vietnam, he said, and the US must deal with it.

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Delegation Has Its Troubles: The delegation which visited Belgium is the same one which was recently refused entry to the Netherlands. It has in fact encountered heavy going in more than one country on its West European tour. In Belgium the delegates met with a labor leader who supported the US position, and with leaders of a teachers' union who accused the Front of committing atrocities in South Vietnam. Their public appearances were dominated by

pro-Peking Communists, much to the dismay of the pro-Soviet Communists who sponsored the visit.

The delegation left on Sunday for Rome, muttering about the restrictions the Italian Government was placing on their activities.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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